

**Assessment of Current Library Technology****Part I: Public Access to the Library's Electronic Resources****Inventory of Public Access Hardware:**

Reference Area (1<sup>st</sup> floor): The reference area has eight PCs running Windows98 with Ethernet connections to the Internet. Three of these PCs have DVD-ROM drives and the rest have CD-ROM drives. They are connected to two HP4000 Laser network printers. There are also three PC's stationed at the pillars of the reference area. These PCs are running Windows95 with Ethernet connections. All three have CD-ROM drives and are connected to one of the HP4000 Laser network printers. There is one PC that is setup to give access to the WESTLAW database. It is running Windows95 with Ethernet connections to the Internet. It does not have a CD-ROM drive and has its own HP820 DeskJet printer. There is one PC running Windows95 with Ethernet connections to the Internet. This PC has a CD-ROM drive and is connected to one of the HP4000 Laser network printers. This PC is the only PC that has all the government document CD-ROMS installed. In addition there are three dumb terminals (keyboard and monitor directly linked to Salve's old library system) stationed at pillars.

Research Room (Rm 106): The research room has 8 PCs running Windows95 with Ethernet connections to the Internet.. The room also has one PC running Windows98 with Ethernet connections to the Internet. All the PCs have CD-ROM drives and are connected to an HP4050 Laser network printer located in the room.

Faculty Room (Rm 107): The faculty room has one PC running Windows98 with Ethernet connections to the Internet. This PC has a CD-ROM drive and is connected to an HPLaserJet 6p printer located in the room. This PC also has a HP5000 scanner.

Current Serials Area (1<sup>st</sup> floor): The current serials area has three PCs stationed at pillars. These computers are running Windows95 with Ethernet connections to the Internet. One of the PCs has a CD-ROM drive. None are connected to a printer and are only capable of downloading files to a floppy disk. In addition there are three dumb terminals (keyboard and monitor directly linked to Salve's old library system) stationed at pillars.

Public Area (2<sup>nd</sup> floor & 3<sup>rd</sup> floor): At the moment this area has 12 dumb terminals (keyboard and monitor directly linked to Salve's old library system) stationed at pillars. These terminals can not be used in our new HELIN library system. In anticipation of our move to the HELIN library system two old (286's) PCs, one on each floor, are being installed. The old PCs will be running MS-DOS and a terminal emulator program called PROCOM for access to the HELIN catalog in character mode and Salve's PINE email system. Each will have an attached DEC LA70 line printer.

**Evaluation of Public Access to Electronic Resources:**

In total the public area has 28 PCs running Windows 95/98. From this total 10 PC's have at least 32 Mbytes of main memory that is needed to run Windows 98 efficiently. These also have CPUs that are Pentium or Celeron chips of 200MHz-233MHz. The rest of the PC's have less computing power. All have main memories of 16 Mbytes or less (6 PC's have 800 Kbytes). All the CPU's have "Pentium I" generation chips of 100MHz. Many of the latter group of PC's are over three years old and are out of warranty. There is a need to replace the PC's in the latter group with current technology. This need is driven by the library's reliance on electronic resources. These resources all have interfaces that need the latest technology to run efficiently. The PC's in the latter group are unable to run most of our CD-ROM databases, unable to support the latest web browsers, and cannot run JAVA-based on-line electronic databases.

The library still has 18 dumb terminals connected to the old library system. This system is currently being replaced by the HELIN library system. The dumb terminals will not be able to function in the new library system. As an interim solution some old PC's with Ethernet cards will be used to access the character-based HELIN catalog. These PC's will not be able to use the capabilities of the web-based HELIN catalog. That is, the character-based catalog will not support requests by the user for materials from other HELIN libraries (IntraHELIN loan). It also will not support add-on searches (Z39.50 technology) to other databases, such as WorldCat, Encyclopedia Britannica, etc. (more databases are being added). The user also is not able to make an electronic interlibrary loan request. All these functions are directly available in the web-based HELIN catalog. There is a need to replace these dumb terminals (or the interim solution of old PC's) with the most current technology in PCs to take advantage of the full capabilities of the newly acquired HELIN library system. As an aside, there is no further development being made on the character-based catalog and it is being phased out. There is an immediate need for additional hub ports for Internet access on the second and third floors of the library.

**Proposals for Improvement of Public Access to Electronic Resources:**

1. A three-year rotation update of existing public computers.
2. Increasing the computer access in the reference area of the library.
3. Increasing the computer access in the Reseach Room which is also used as the library's classroom for bibliographic instruction.
4. Installation of a local area network (LAN) for client/server support to electronic resources access, support for shared resources (eg. Pay-for-Printing printers), and support day-to-day maintenance of public computers.
5. Constant upgrade to the most current technology for Internet access. Immediately,
  - a) supplying an update for port and hub access for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors.
  - b) T1 access from the campus to the HELIN library system.